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MISCELLANEOUS NOTES ON NEOTROPICAL FLORA XX. A NEW SPECIES  
OF *HUMIRIASTRUM*

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ABSTRACT

A new species, *Humiriastrum liesneri* from the Venezuelan Guayana is described.

KEY WORDS: Humiriaceae, *Humiriastrum*, Venezuela

In the continued process of working on the Humiriaceae for the Flora of the Venezuelan Guayana, in preparation by the Missouri Botanical Garden, a new species of *Humiriastrum* has been found which is here described.

*Humiriastrum liesneri* Cuatrecasas, *sp. nov.* TYPUS: VENEZUELA. Terr. Fed. Amazonas, Dt. Río Negro, Cerro Aracamuni summit, Proa Camp, medium height, semiopen forest, 1400 m, near rock outcrop in savanna, buds green, 2 m shrub, 28 Oct 1987, R. Liesner & G. Carnevali 22589 (HOLOTYPE: US; Isotype: MO).

Frutex vel arbuscula circa 2 m alta, dense ramulosa. Rami ultimi densiuscule hirtuli, ascendentes conferte foliosi, denique glabrati teretes brunnescenti-viriduli. Folia crassiuscule coriacea rotundata usque leviter retusa, vel paulo attenuata obtusaque fere subobtrulata, basim anguste acuteque cuneata; margine brevi-crenata leviter incrassata revolutaque; adaxialiter nitida, saltem in juvenili sparse minuteque hirtula, costa signata depressa, nervis secundariis 6 utroque latere aliquando conspicuis vel obsoletis, venulis reticulatis depressis superficie rugosa efferens; abaxialiter primum ferrugineo-vidula minute pilosula, deinde sordide viridis, plerumque glabrescens sed parvis pilis ad basim, reticulo venulorum conspicuo, superficie omnia dense minute glanduloso-granulata; vulgo 3.8-4.8 x 2.7-3.3 cm, sed aliquae minores (2.2-3.0 x 1.5-2.8 cm)

interpositae. Pseudopetiolus 1-3 mm, ad basim dorso incrassato pulvinato-glanduloso.

Inflorescentiae terminales plerumque folia non excedentes, conferte corymboso-paniculatae, 2-4 x 3-4 cm, pedunculo circa 1 cm longo; rami monochasiales aliquando 2-4 inaequales pseudoverticillati; ramusculi terminales breves 1-4 flores ferentes. Flores in speciminibus non evolutis, in gemmatio statu, breviter pedicellati. Pedicelli 0.2-1.0 mm. Rami ramusculi pedicelique densiuscule minuteque hirtuli. Bractee mox deciduae.

Alabastra viridia subglobosa 2.0-2.5 mm longa. Sepala 5, crassiuscula concava quincuncialia 1.5-1.8 x 1.2-1.3 mm (in gemma), elliptica apice rotundata margine anguste hyalina ciliataque, abaxiale densiuscule hirtula, inferne coalita; pili unicellulares acuti hyalini. Petala 5, praeffloratione imbricata, 2.1-2.3 mm longa (in gemma), crassiuscula, elliptica obtusa concava, dorso linea mediali hirtula reliqua glaberrima, margine anguste hyalina et laevi. Stamina 20, filamentis basi connatis, parte libera filiformis glabris, quinque longioribus. Antherae 20 in alabastro adpresse 3-seriatae, connectivo crasso in 5 distalibus conniventibus acuto, thecis in torsis supra basim lateralibus. Discus non vidi. Ovarium ovatum 5-sulcatum glabrum, 5 septatum loculis uniovulatis. Stylus crassiusculus valde brevis. Stigma discoideum 5 lobulatum glutinosum, lobis cum 5 connectivis antherarum adpresse conniventibus alternantibus.

*Humiriastrum liesneri* is an interesting species distinguished by the rather small, obovate, sessile, crenulate leaves, straight, upright leafy branches, and terminal, erect panicles. The flower is only known in bud stage. It is important to try to collect mature flowers, in full anthesis, to clear some significant features, among others, the structure of the anthers, in order to clarify the true relationships of the species. Its distinguishing characters from the other Venezuelan species are being keyed in the forthcoming flora of the Venezuelan Guayana.